

FREE

# The Romulus News

JANUARY 5, 1996 – JANUARY 18, 1996

"the little paper"

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 12

## Romulus Recognizes Service of School Board Members

January is a time of celebration in the Romulus Community Schools. That's because it's School Board Recognition Month – a time when students, parents, school employees, and business and community leaders salute the dedicated individuals who help to shape education in our district.

Serving on the 1995-96 Board are:

- Debra Hoffman (president),
- Kenneth Berlinn (vice president),
- Judith Gondek (secretary),
- Julie Oleszkowicz (treasurer),
- Howard Kesner (trustee),
- Sandra Langley (trustee), and
- Pat Patterson (trustee).

Board members are elected to four-year terms and are expected to be informed and conversant with all issues involving education in our district, county, and state. From improving student achievement-test scores and providing safe schools to overseeing our school code, grants, millage, and bond issues, our school board is involved in every aspect of public education for Romulus students and staff.

Besides being educational leaders, board members must perform other important duties. They are ambassadors for successful schools, lobbyists for positive school legislation, advocates for fair funding of public schools, and the communication link with their community. Their responsibility is ever increasing, yet many believe that their control over local issues is decreasing. They speak and act for students, families, single parents, minorities, majorities, businesses, and civic groups, while often juggling conflicting demands.

In addition to attending two regular meetings a month, our board members serve on committees, speak to groups, take an active part in school activities, and attend out-of-district meetings and seminars. A board member's highest reward is watching each group of graduates leave the school district, equipped to succeed.

In a continued commitment to significantly increase academic achievement, the Romulus Board of Education has approved an ambitious plan of ac-

tion, which specifies mutual roles and responsibilities for schools and parents, according to Board president Hoffman.

"This is a very challenging but exciting time to serve on the Romulus School Board," said Hoffman. "We are committed to accelerating academic achievement for every student and are determined to make dramatic changes to achieve this goal. The success of this plan requires commitment from the administration, staff, parents, community leaders, and – of course – the students. Without total commitment from all of these groups, we will not be successful.

"Our students deserve the very best education we can provide," Hoffman added, "and their success is everyone's obligation."

The theme of this year's celebration is "Uniting Communities through Public Education." The theme recognizes the value of local school-board members in the American democratic process and stresses the role of public education in bringing together people from all walks of life. □



Romulus Board of Education president Debra Hoffman

## Recreation Department's Mid-winter Season Begins

The Romulus Recreation Department urges residents to "jump start" 1996 by enrolling in one or more of their mid-winter programs. Call 942-6852 for more information.

### Youth Basketball

Boys and girls in grades three through six are encouraged to participate in the Romulus Recreation Department's Saturday youth basketball program, which will begin at all elementary schools on January 20. Cost for the 10-week program is \$20 per child or \$35 per family, and includes instruction, games, and a shirt. Students who wish to receive a shirt emblazoned with their school's name should register at the Recreation Building by January 19. (Those who don't register early may risk not getting a team shirt.)

The Recreation Department is also looking for people interested in coaching the youth basketball program. Applicants should be hard-working individuals who will serve as excellent role-models for the youngsters involved. Pay for this part-time (Saturdays only) job is \$5.50 per hour. All interested persons should contact the City of Romulus Personnel Department and fill out an

application, or call Keith at the Recreation Department (942-6852).

### Gymnastics

Instruction in basic gymnastic techniques with an emphasis on creative movements will be provided by the Tumblebunnies during their second of three eight-week sessions, set to begin January 11 and continue through March 7. The every-thursday classes will be held at Wick School according to the following schedule:

- preschool (ages 18 months through four years) – 6 to 6:45 p.m.
- early elementary (ages five through seven) – 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- upper elementary/juniors (ages eight and up) – 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

Cost is \$33. Preregister at the Recreation Building prior to January 10.

### Jazz & Tap Dance Classes

Downriver Conservatory of Dance Arts offers professional instruction in jazz and tap dancing for children five and up at the Recreation Building every Tuesday from January 9 through February 27. The 30- to 45-minute classes will be held between 5 and 8 p.m.; times will be determined after the January 8 registration deadline. Cost is \$27.

(Note: A "little tot" ballet will be added if there is enough interest.)

### Cheerleading & Pompon

Cheer America – a 45-minute cheerleading and pompon instructional program – will be held at Barth Elementary School on Wednesdays beginning January 10 and continuing through March 27. Class times will range from 5 to 8 p.m. The cost of \$4 per class is due at the beginning of each class. (Note: There is an optional charge for costumes and pompons.) All registration takes place at the school, not the Recreation Department.

### Karate

Karate classes taught by world-certified instructor Lee McElwaney will be conducted at Merriman Elementary School from 6 to 8:45 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday starting January 9 and continuing through March 19. Youngsters must be at least seven years old to participate. Class size is limited; register at the Recreation Building no later than January 9. Cost is \$10.

### Beginning & Intermediate Keyboard

Youngsters ages six to 12 will learn basic keyboard skills in this six-week program taught by Saundra Patillo.

Classes will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday beginning January 10. Cost is \$30. Class size is limited to seven students; preregister at the Recreation Building.

### "Drop-in" Classes

The Romulus Recreation Department sponsors the following "drop-in" programs (for which there is no preregistration or long-term commitment):

- Adult Basketball (open to any Romulus resident age 19 or over; must have proper ID) – every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Romulus Middle School; fee is \$2.
- Teen Basketball (open to Romulus Middle School and High School students; must have proper school ID) – every Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Merriman Elementary School; fee is \$1.
- Quilting – every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Recreation Building; fee is \$1.
- Ceramics – every Monday at 6 p.m. at the Recreation Building; fee is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for nonresidents (an additional firing charge equal to half the cost of the greenware will also be due upon completion of each project). □

# Letters to the Editor

*Editor's note: All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity.*

## EDS Says "Thanks" to Open House Attendees

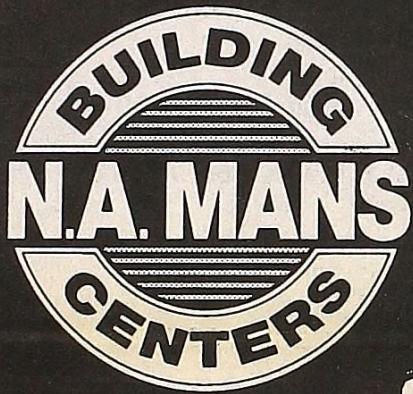
Dear Editor:

I want to extend our appreciation to those residents of Romulus and Taylor who took the time to attend our open house on December 28, 1995, to discuss Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc.'s (EDS) proposed plans regarding its site near Inkster and Wick roads.

Many questions arose regarding trucking routes, safety, injection conditions, the types of wastes to be accepted, and environmental controls. EDS assured those present that the liquids to be handled would not involve evacuations if a spill were to occur because the liquids would not be flammable or explosive, nor would any truck routes be near schools; that injections over 30 years would travel less than a quarter mile or so; and that all handling of liquids would be performed within a building.

Thank you again for your interest and concern.

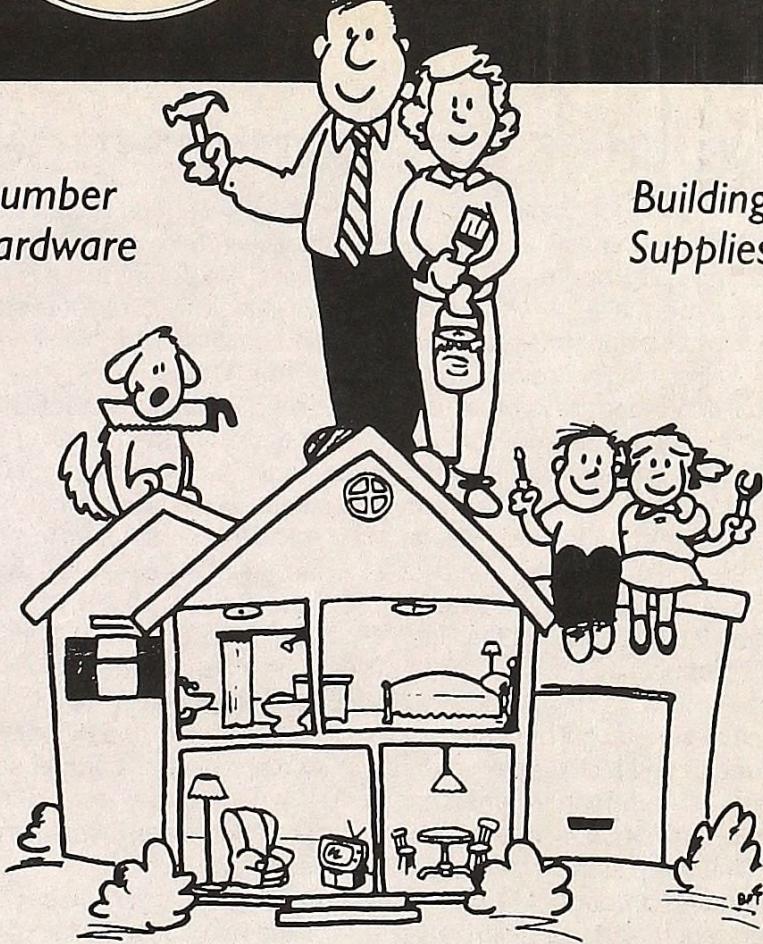
Sincerely,  
Austin Marshall, Vice President  
EDS □



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We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although every attempt will be made to do so.

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While *The Romulus News* makes every effort to insure that its advertisement copy is error-free, we are not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limit our liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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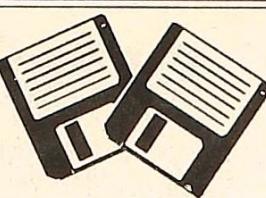
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**Historical Society Notes**

By Pearl Varner, president, Romulus Historical Society  
**January Meeting**

Wednesday, January 17, is election night for the Society. Guest speaker for the evening will be Pam Newhouse, who will discuss the subject of "Michigan Civil War Battle Flags: Mementoes of Friends Lost and a Country Saved." Ms. Newhouse has a master's degree in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University, and is also a member of the State of Michigan Battle Flag Task Force.

The public is invited to attend this meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. at the Historical Museum (behind the Post Office on Hunt Street), to listen as this knowledgeable speaker shares her expertise concerning the Civil War era.

**Society's Annual Reports**

The Society wishes to thank Kathy Billings, CPA – partner in the firm of Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel, CPAs, of Wayne, Michigan – for the generous donation of her time and expertise in the preparation of the Society's annual report. The firm's continued support of the Historical Society over the years is greatly appreciated.

**City Tree-lighting at Historic Park**

Many adults and children braved the cold weather to attend the annual tree-lighting ceremony at the Romulus

Historic Park on Friday, December 8. Prior to Santa's arrival, over 65 guests toured the festively decorated Museum and enjoyed refreshments served by Historical Society members. After Santa arrived via helicopter, to the joy of his young admirers, the group went on to Wick Elementary School, where the children waited their turn to visit with old Saint Nick.

**More Thanks**

A special thank-you to all the members who baked cookies for the City's Tree-lighting Ceremony. Donations of \$25 each were given by Margaret Bird of Florida and Bruce Patterson, County Commissioner, toward Society projects. A contribution of \$50 was given to the Society in memory of William H. Szyndlar by his family. Mr. Szyndlar was a lifelong resident of Romulus until his death on July 4, 1995.

**Kingsley House Update**

A \$500 donation toward the Kingsley House restoration was given by each of the following: Frederick W. Hay of Romulus and the Romulus Kiwanis Club. Both of these names will be placed on the new donor plaque now in progress.

Anyone wishing to donate \$500 or more to the restoration project should contact Pearl Varner (697-9628) or Gloria Chandler (941-2678). □

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## Cold-weather Tips Warm Ice Anglers

Now is the time for all good Michigan "snowbirds" to shun the golf courses and sandy beaches of the south and try ice fishing, instead.

Crazy? Hey, don't judge it till you try it, advises AAA Michigan. Thousands do every year and swear that it's the only way to enjoy the exhilaration of winter in the Michigan mitten.

But whether you're enjoying the free-spirited camaraderie of other anglers or solving the world's problems in fishing solitude, there are precautions to observe — from ice conditions to how to dress — before joining some 300,000 ice-fishing enthusiasts on the Great Lakes and 11,000 inland lakes in the State . . . starting with a fishing license if you're 17 or older.

In general, starting with ice thickness, says AAA, four solid inches are needed for general foot traffic; six inches or more for controlled snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle use.

Other things to remember:

- Never drive a car or truck onto frozen lakes to your fishing spot because harmonic vibrations set up by heavy, moving vehicles may crack the thickest ice.
- Not all waters freeze evenly. Ice may be solid and safe in one location while, a few feet away, springs, currents, or air bubbles may mean a dangerously thin covering. Eroding currents make river ice especially dangerous and unpredictable. Stay off frozen streams.
- Clear ice has been quickly frozen and, generally, is harder and will support more weight than "milk ice" filled with snow or air bubbles. Darkly discolored ice indicates thin spots and should be avoided.
- Expansion of freezing ice on certain large lakes and protected Great Lakes bays occasionally forces the ice sheets upward into ridges, leaving open water between the fractured shards.
- Beware of potential danger on ice next to piers, wharves, seawalls, pilings, and floating debris, such as

abandoned fishing shanties, because it's usually thinner than the rest of the ice.

One of the most comfortable ways to enjoy ice fishing is in a heated shanty — but, again, some important precautions are necessary:

- Make sure that your heater is properly vented to avoid deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- Bottled gas (propane, butane, and natural gas) heaters may require the crack of a window or door for ventilation, but charcoal and wood burners need to be vented with a chimney of appropriate design.

Proper dress and eating habits are important, too, when braving the icy elements.

Dressing in layers is the ticket, so that outer garments can be peeled off if you get to warm. Because most heat-loss occurs through the head, wearing a hat is vital, as is covering extremities such as feet, hands, and ears, which receive less blood circulation.

Dehydration in dry winter air is as much a problem as it is in summer. Avoid alcoholic beverages because alcohol restricts blood vessels, hampering blood flow to extremities. Frequent snacks of high-energy foods such as dried fruit, granola, trail mix, nuts, or carbohydrates is desirable.

A well-prepared angler also carries at least 50 feet of synthetic rope to help others who may fall through thin ice; a spud or heavy ice chisel to probe ice thickness; and two spikes or large nails to help himself/herself should he/she plunge into the water.

In this worst-case scenario, orient your body in a horizontal position, as if swimming. Place your hands, palms down, on the ice surface and attempt to do a "push-up" while using a swimming kick to thrust you out of the hole onto safe ice; then roll to safety. Stand only after reaching safe ice; then go immediately to shore to change clothes and warm up. Spikes or large nails, pushed into the surrounding ice, also can help you pull to safety. □

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### HELP WANTED

The Romulus Recreation Dept. is looking for basketball coaches for its upcoming mid-winter season. Coaches will be supervising 3rd through 6th grade students. The rate of pay is \$5.50 per hour. The season starts at the beginning of January so your application must be submitted as soon as possible. Please pick up applications at the Personnel Dept. at City Hall or you may call 942-6852.

## Community Calendar

- **Donations Sought for St. Vincent de Paul** — The Outpost (18855 Wahrman Road, New Boston) is accepting donations for the St. Vincent de Paul disaster fund to replace items that were destroyed in the recent fire. For more information, call 753-0255.
- **Blood Drive** — Take time out of your busy schedule on Monday, January 22, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., to donate blood at a blood drive to be sponsored by Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne (33155 Annapolis, Wayne) and the American Red Cross. For more information, call (313) 467-2535.
- **Rivers Postpones "Budget Review" Session** — Congresswoman Lynn Rivers has postponed her public forum, "Everything You Wanted To Know About The Budget" — a free program intended to "demystify" the Federal budget-making process — until Saturday, January 27, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the auditorium of Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road). For more information, please call her district offices: (313) 741-4210 or (313) 722-1411.
- **Lend Me a Tenor** — The Huron Civic Theatre (32044 Huron River Drive, in New Boston) will present *Lend Me a Tenor*, a "quintessential farce set in 1930s Cleveland," on Friday, February 16 and 23, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, February 17 and 23, at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, February 18 and 25, at 3 p.m. Tickets (\$7 for adults; \$6 for senior citizens and students) are available at the Box Office; call 782-5380.
- **Female Mentors Needed** — The Young Mothers Assistance Program is looking for adult mentors to help support, educate, and nurture pregnant and parenting teens in Western Wayne County. Training is ongoing. Please call 313-513-7589 for more information.
- **Perinatal Support Group** — The Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne Maternal Child Care Department offers a Perinatal Loss Support Group — a healing group for parents who have experienced a loss through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, still-birth, or newborn death. The support group meets every Monday from 7:45 to 9 p.m. at the Center (33155 Annapolis). For more information and/or to RSVP, call 467-5588.
- **Writer Support Group** — Writers Anonymous, a newly formed writer support group encompassing all ages and interests, will meet at the Romulus Public Library (11121 South Wayne Road) on the first and third Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The group's objective is to give honest, constructive criticism and encouragement to its members. For information, call the Library at 942-7589.
- **Romulus Little League Meetings** — The Romulus Little League Board of Directors invites the public to attend its twice-monthly meetings, held at 7 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Romulus Recreation Department (36515 Bibbins).
- **Premarital Counseling Classes** — Oakwood Hospital Heritage Center-Taylor, in cooperation with the Taylor Teen Health Center, offers premarital counseling classes that will fulfill the State of Michigan marriage license requirement. Participants will receive information on sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, and prenatal care from a highly qualified health educator. Classes are offered on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8 p.m. at 10000 Telegraph, Taylor (in the in-service classroom at the hospital). Cost is \$25 for couples; \$15 for individuals. To preregister, call 374-2273.
- **Bennett's Cable Show Airs** — State Senator Loren Bennett's new cable show, *People and Policy: A Common Sense Agenda*, will air on Channel 40 on Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m. (or immediately following the City Council meeting).

*To place information in the Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113*

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## A Word to Those Who Want to Know More About Winona

By Kristi Stephens

The recently announced intentions of Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc. (EDS), to pursue the construction of a second injection-well facility in Romulus has returned the so-called "well issue" to the forefront of local politics – and, since this second facility would be located just west of Inkster Road and north of Wick Road, the City of Taylor has become interested in the subject, as well.

Since there are no commercial hazardous-waste injection wells in operation in the State of Michigan, some concerned local citizens – especially members of Romulus Environmentalists Care About People (RECAP) – have begun querying various government agencies, scientists, and/or nearby residents in out-of-state towns where such facilities do exist to find out what negative impact (if any) injection wells have had on their communities.

Not surprisingly, the findings that well proponents claim to have obtained vary wildly from those supposedly obtained by those who oppose the well. This discrepancy in the two opposing viewpoints was especially evident in a "guest editorial" (on the subject of a disposal facility located in Winona, Texas) which appeared in the November 16, 1995 edition of *The Romulus Roman*. The opinion piece was written by Phyllis Glazer, founder and president of Mothers Organized to Stop Environmental Sins (MOSES) in Winona.

The controversy over the Winona facility has peaked the interest of residents who would like to find out more about the subject before hardening their opinions about whether or not the City of Romulus should continue its legal battle against EDS to prohibit operation of a commercial injection-well in our community. Unfortunately, many people end up relying on unsubstantiated rumors because they aren't sure about who they should contact to begin their own investigation.

Of course, we at "the little paper" have spent a great deal of time looking into the claims of both sides concerning the Winona facility. But, because we realize that nothing carries as much weight with people as information that they have obtained for themselves from the sources which they trust the most, we aren't going to just tell you what we think. Instead, we invited spokespersons for the

opposing viewpoints – R.P. Lilly (from RECAP) and Austin Marshall (Vice President of EDS) – to answer and provide authoritative documentation for identical questions about Winona. Because we are printing their answers in their entirety, the article is quite lengthy; still, we hope that those who are truly concerned will "stick it out" to the end and give all the material their careful consideration.

As you read, we urge you to do so with a critical eye.

Did the respondents fully answer each question to your satisfaction? Or did they sometimes attempt to evade – or "talk around" – the issues?

Do you believe that the sources cited are probably objective enough, and knowledgeable enough, to have trustworthy, authoritative opinions? Or is there a real possibility that ulterior motives like financial gain or "politicking" could be coloring their viewpoints? Although we don't mean to be so cynical as to imply doubt of everyone, it is a fact that the statements of businessmen (who might fear the loss of profits), citizens (who might be tempted by the "easy money" that a lawsuit can produce), public officials (who might be less than honest because political loyalties may make them subject to pressure from either "big money" or "community activist" groups), and even newspaper publishers (who may put money ahead of their responsibility to their readers) cannot be simply accepted at face value. But there are questions that you can ask yourself to help you judge the relative worth of the various sources cited.

For instance, when it comes to government agencies, there is always the possibility that one or more individuals are corrupt; however, it is difficult (at least for us) to imagine a situation where every member of every government agency is untrustworthy. Keeping this in mind, did the respondents manage to lend additional plausibility to their answers by citing a variety of local-, county-, state- and/or federal-level sources? Or did they rely heavily on only one or two authorities?

Finally, we urge you to "read between the lines." The fact that a lawsuit has been filed does not mean that the people filing it will be able to prove their case. And be sure to watch for giveaway words like "possibly," "probably," and "likely," which could be indicators that definitive, convincing proof of the writer's assertion is lacking. □

## RECAP, EDS Spokespersons Respond to TRN Questionnaire

**#1: Who owns the deep-well facility in Winona, Texas, and of what does that facility consist? In other words, does the facility consist of just an injection well, or are there other waste-treatment and/or waste-disposal facilities present as well? If so, please describe the facilities.**

### RECAP's Response

The facility is owned and operated by American Ecology Environmental Services Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Ecology Corporation, headquartered in Houston, Texas. The facility includes two hazardous-waste Class I injection disposal wells, surface facilities for storage of waste prior to disposal, a fuel-blending operation, and a solvent recovery operation. For confirmation of this information, see page 4, part VI. ("Nature of Defendant's Operations and Air Contaminant Emissions"), from *State of Texas v. Gibraltar Chemical Resources, Inc., Plaintiff's First Amended Original Petition and Application for Temporary Injunction*.

### EDS' Response

The Winona facility is owned by American Ecology Environmental Services Corporation, located at 13640 Highway 155 North, Tyler, Texas 75708.

Their phone number is (903) 877-6600.

The facility consists of the following components:

- Solvent Reclamation Facilities – storage tanks and treatment equipment;
- Waste-derived Fuel Blending Facilities – storage tanks and treatment equipment; and
- a Deep-injection Well.

The *Solvent Reclamation Facility* accepts paint thinner, lacquer thinner, and solvents. Usable portions of these liquids are reclaimed and the remaining liquid components are disposed in their deepwell.

The *Fuel Blending Facility* accepts petroleum products, paint, and used chemicals for blending and resale. Liquid wastes from this operation are disposed of in the deepwell.

The Solvent Reclamation and Fuel Blending facilities are similar to Romulus' Michigan Recovery, Inc., facility, which accepts flammable liquids.

American Ecology's facility is different than that proposed by EDS in the following ways.

- The American Ecology facility accepts solvents, paint, petroleum, and other flammable and explosive products that are not allowed to be accepted on page 6

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2 Items  
Restrictions Apply  
One Coupon Per Order • Delivery Extra  
Expires 1/31/96

**2 Large Pizzas**

Cheese & **\$9.99**  
1 Item  
Restrictions Apply  
One Coupon Per Order • Delivery Extra  
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**X-Large Pizza**

Cheese & **\$5.99**  
2 Items  
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One Coupon Per Order • Delivery Extra  
Expires 1/31/96

**2 X-Large Pizzas**

(Cheese & 2 Items)  
Plus... Small Dippsters  
Plus... Large Antipasto Salad  
Plus... 2-Quart Coke  
Restrictions Apply  
Limited Time  
Delivery Extra  
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Plus Tax

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## RECAP, EDS SPOKESPERSONS RESPOND TO TRN QUESTIONNAIRE

continued from page 5

cepted for deepwell injection. These types of liquids are not included in EDS' permit application.

- Storage facilities at American Ecology provide for more than 800,000 gallons of liquid storage. This is about three times the storage volume applied for by EDS.
- Vehicle unloading at the American Ecology facility is performed *outdoors*, whereas EDS' design requires that all liquid unloading be performed *inside a building* so that potential odors do not escape.

**#2: Has the facility's injection well ever physically contaminated surface or groundwater on properties adjacent to the facility? If so, with what were they contaminated? Please provide the name and telephone number of any local and/or state government agency which can confirm that laboratory tests are available to prove that such contamination occurred.**

### RECAP's Response

Soil and three shallow aquifers are confirmed contaminated from activities at the facility. The company has never been required to test off-site for contamination and the contamination plume has not yet been fully determined. Testing to date indicates off-site contamination is likely. The facility claims that the

soil and groundwater contamination was caused by surface activities, although this has not been proved. For confirmation, consult the company's compliance plan application submitted to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) in March 1995. Contact Marianne Baker at the TNRCC (512-239-1000) for additional information.

### EDS' Response

There is no evidence of any contamination of surface water or groundwater adjacent to the American Ecology Facility. This can be confirmed by contacting:

- Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission  
12015 North Interstate 35  
Building D, E, F  
Austin, Texas 78735  
Mr. Ben Knape  
(512) 239-6633

**#3: Has any documented air pollution occurred as a result of this facility's deep-well operation? If so, please provide such documentation and/or the names and telephone numbers of state and/or county officials who can confirm your assertion.**

### RECAP's Response

Many instances of confirmed air contamination from the deep-well activities have been documented. See the pleadings cited in answer #1 above. The suit alleges numerous odor nuisance violations related to the facility's

operations. Odor nuisance was caused specifically by well work-overs on at least the following dates: July 14 and 22, 1992; August 26, 1992; September 10, 1992; October 2 and 28, 1992; July 21 and 23, 1993; and November 7, 1994. Such incidents are included as the basis for the Clean Air Act citizens suit filed against the company by MOSES (Mothers Organized to Stop Environmental Sins, a grass-roots, non-profit corporation founded by Phyllis Glazer).

Further information on the subject can be obtained from Vic Ramirez, TNRCC (512-239-1000).

### EDS' Response

There is no evidence of any air contamination from the American Ecology Facility. This can be confirmed by contacting:

- Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission  
Mr. Charles Murray  
(903) 595-2639

**#4: Do you know of any well-related diseases presently in existence in Winona, Texas, that are putting residents at risk, and that have been documented by health officials? If so, please provide the name and telephone number of the health official who can confirm your answer.**

### RECAP's Response

The health effects caused by the facility are the subject of several toxic tort lawsuits filed by numerous area residents. For further information, contact Victor McCall, the attorney who is representing plaintiffs in those suits, at 1-800-985-0888.

### EDS' Response

There have been no medical cases or diseases caused by the American Ecology Facility. This can be confirmed by:

- Smith County Health Department  
P.O. Box 2039  
Tyler, Texas 75710  
Mr. Domenic Scairrani, Director  
(903) 535-0031
- State of Texas Health Department  
1517 West Front Street  
Tyler, Texas 75702  
Mr. John McFarlan  
(903) 595-3585

**#5: Have facility employees made any claims regarding well-related impacts on their health which can be verified by actual medical records? If so, please supply the name and telephone number of the health official who can confirm this.**

### RECAP's Response

See answer to question #4.

### EDS' Response

No claims have been made by the American Ecology Facility's employees claiming health injury from contamination that are supportable by any actual medical testing. This can be confirmed by:

- State of Texas Health Department  
Mr. John McFarlan  
(903) 595-3585
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Texas Division  
903 San Jacinto  
Suite 319  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 916-5783

**#6: In her guest editorial for *The Romulus Roman*, Mrs. Glazer refers to "evacuations." Did these evacuations occur? If so, which local, county, or state agency can document that they took place and that they were managed by local health or safety officials?**

### RECAP's Response

Joe and Sharon Shaddox have evacuated their home on numerous occasions, as have other area residents. For further information, contact the Shaddox family at 903-877-3674. We believe that the facility was evacuated at least seven times. Information can be obtained from both the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* and the *Tyler Courier Times* for an evacuation on October 18, 1991. Information regarding the other evacuations can be obtained from the company.

### EDS' Response

There have been no public evacuations of any residence near the Facility required by the Facility or local health officials. This can be confirmed by:

- Smith County Health Department  
Mr. Domenic Scairrani, Director  
(903) 535-0031
- State of Texas Health Department  
Mr. John McFarlan  
(903) 595-3585

**#7: Mrs. Glazer refers to "unexplained deaths of livestock." Have there been any documented livestock-disease cases? If so, what local authorities can confirm that such cases existed and that they were related to the Winona facility's deep-well operation?**

### RECAP's Response

See answer to question #4.

### EDS' Response

There have been no livestock deaths linked to the American Ecology facility. The only known livestock disease case in the area is at the "Blazing Saddles Ranch," owned by Phyllis Glazer, where animals were placed under quarantine in January of 1993 because the livestock and ranch workers tested positive for tuberculosis. Twenty-five elk, two bison, and three Sicilian donkeys were purchased by Mrs. Glazer from another ranch that was also found to have cases of tuberculosis. This can be confirmed by:

- Texas Animal Health Commission  
Area 5, Suboffice 1716  
South San Marcos  
Room 15

*continued on page 7*

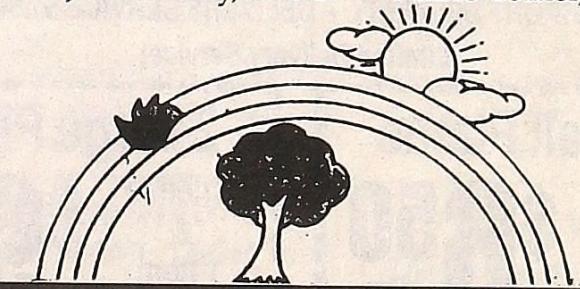
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## RECAP, EDS SPOKESPERSONS RESPOND TO TRN QUESTIONNAIRE

continued from page 6

San Antonio, Texas 78207  
 Dr. Daniel Baca  
 (210) 224-5468  
 • Dr. Walter L. Riggs  
 (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
 United States Department of Agriculture)  
 c/o Animal Health Commission  
 206 South Van Buren  
 Room 6  
 Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455  
 (903) 572-1966

An article which appeared in the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* also documents the tuberculosis cases.  
**#8: Has anyone in Winona, Texas, been injured by a truck spill, or has any environmental damage been caused by one? If so, please provide details and the telephone number of a local, county, state, or federal official who can confirm such injury or damage.**

### RECAP's Response

With regard to injury due to truck spills, please see the answer to question #4. There have been several tanker spills in the area. We know that such a spill took place on January 18, 1992. Local television stations and the Tyler newspapers carried the story.

### EDS' Response

No one has been injured environmentally from any truck spills. This can be confirmed by:

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Texas Division  
 (512) 916-5783

**#9: Have any personal-damage lawsuits been won against the Winona facility for any supposed pollution incidents? If so, please provide official documentation of the relevant case(s).**

### RECAP's Response

See answer to question #4.

### EDS' Response

No personal lawsuits have been won against the Texas facility. This can be confirmed by:

- American Ecology  
 Mr. Robert Marchand, Vice President  
 (903) 877-6600

**#10: Are the liquids proposed for disposal at EDS' Romulus facilities the same types of liquids being handled by the facility in Winona? If so, please list them.**

### RECAP's Response

The Winona facility is authorized to accept all wastes except radioactive waste, some levels of PCBs, and dioxins. See Permit WDW-186 issued by the State of Texas.

### EDS' Response

The Texas facility accepts a wide range of flammable and explosive liquids that cannot be accepted by EDS because EDS' permit application does not include flammables or explosives.

Such liquids have resale value as fuels for cement kilns, etc. Only aqueous-based liquids comprised of approximately 90% water and having no residual value are suitable for deepwell injection. This can be confirmed by our permit application on file at the Romulus Public Library. The fact that the Texas facility can accept flammables can be confirmed by:

- Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission  
 Mr. Ben Knape  
 (512) 239-6633

**#11: Opponents to the practice of deep-well injection of hazardous waste assert that there is no need for deep-well disposal because waste can be eliminated instead. Where can such liquids be recycled without sending them to a treatment plant that discharges some of the chemicals into our sewer systems, lakes, and/or oceans?**

### RECAP's Response

The State of Texas needs assessment indicates that Texas has sufficient hazardous waste disposal capacity without the use of deep-injection wells. The TNRCC's 1994 Update of the "Needs Assessment for Hazardous Waste Commercial Management Capacity in Texas" (1994 Needs Assessment) indicates that Texas has adequate existing permitted injection-well capacity, and MOSES and Phyllis Glazer believe that the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Capacity Assurance Plan (CAP) currently in progress will indicate the same about national capacity.

The 1994 Needs Assessment shows that hazardous-waste injection wells in Texas provide more than one million tons (when considering disposal capacity of facilities handling liquid wastes, the TNRCC used a conversion factor of: gallons x 8.34) of excess capacity annually, even when considering a 20% reserve capacity and importation of wastes for disposal. There is no need for WDW-229; therefore, under any accepted form of risk analysis, the risk posed by the well is not worth the benefit.

The 1994 Needs Assessment projects that Texas will have adequate commercial underground injection disposal capacity for the hazardous wastes generated in Texas in 1995. This projection was made without considering the 105-million-gallon permitted capacity of WDW-229 because, at the time that the study was performed, WDW-229 did not have a no-migration exemption. It is anticipated that proposed changes to the federal definition of hazardous waste will decrease the amount of hazardous waste requiring disposal and, therefore, increase the excess capacity available for such disposal.

According to the 1994 Needs Assessment, Texas commercial disposal wells are authorized to inject up to 2.1-

million tons of hazardous wastes or other liquid streams annually. See the 1994 Needs Assessment's Table III-3. This analysis indicates that an excess of one-million tons of commercial management capacity will be available in 1995 for deep-well injection. Add to this the annual permitted capacity of WDW-229, 105.12-million gallons, and the excess capacity of deep-well injection in Texas is even greater.

In 1991, the net imports of out-of-state wastes to commercial hazardous-waste injection wells in Texas was over 200,000 tons. The 1994 Needs Assessment concludes, however, that imports are not expected to have significant impact on the capacity available to in-state generators because the remaining available capacity of one-million tons per year far exceeds the net import quantity. See the 1994 Needs Assessment's Table III-6.

### EDS' Response

The concept of working towards eliminating wastes should be everyone's goal; however, today's technologies simply do not provide efficient means to eliminate and/or recycle such wastes at low cost. Recycling of such liquids is not reasonably economical because these liquids are highly diluted with water and, as a result, extraction of the limited chemical content is simply not practical. Chemical and/or biological treatment at

conventional treatment plants results in disposal of chemicals into the sewer system and into our streams and lakes. For verification, see the article published on page 19 in the December 16, 1995 issue of the *Toledo Blade*.

**#12: Mrs. Glazer refers to contamination caused by injection wells in Vickery, Ohio, that extended "miles" from the facility. Is this true? If so, please provide authoritative documentation from the appropriate county, state, or federal agency.**

### RECAP's Response

See the "Consent Order, Judgment and Decree" of Case No. 83-CV-781 (Common Pleas Court of Sandusky County, Ohio), *William Warner, et al, v. Waste Management, Inc., et al* (a class-action lawsuit settlement in the amount of \$30 million on behalf of all residents and/or property owners within a five-mile radius of the Vickery facility); also, see articles relating to the Vickery facility which appeared in *The Californian* (call 753-4320 for a copy).

### EDS' Response

No known groundwater contamination resulting from the Vickery, Ohio injection wells has extended for "miles" from the facility. This can be confirmed by:

- Sandusky County Health Department

*continued on page 8*

**KARAOKE FRIDAY & SATURDAY – 9 p.m. to ???**

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**\$10.00**

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## RECAP, EDS RESPOND

continued from page 7

3956 State Route 512  
Vickery, Ohio 43464  
Mr. Ken Kerick, Director  
(419) 547-7791

**#13: What is the status of the injunction which the state of Texas placed on the Winona facility? Is the facility operated currently, or is it shut down for any reason?**

### RECAP's Response

WDW-186 is operating under an expired permit, which is allowed because it has applied to renew its permit. WDW-229 is operating under an expired permit under the same provision, although it cannot accept most wastes because it does not have an approved no-migration petition from the EPA. The injunctions issued in *State of Texas v. Gibraltar Chemical Resources, Inc.*, which apply to the facility under its current ownership, basically allow operations within the restrictions placed by the Agreed Final Judgment in that case. See the "Agreed Final Judgment" in *State of Texas v. Gibraltar Chemical Resources, Inc.*

### EDS' Response

The American Ecology Facility is currently operating and has been operating since 1980, except for a two-week period when the State of Texas shut down this facility for inspections after it took legal action against the Facility's owner in order to force improvements in the system and operational procedures. A settlement was reached and the Facility was reopened. This can be confirmed by:

- Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission  
Mr. Ben Knape  
(512) 239-6633
- American Ecology  
Mr. Robert Marchand, Vice President  
(903) 877-6600

**#14: If Mrs. Glazer is correct in her assertions that the Winona deep-well has caused so many severe health and safety problems, why is the facility still operating?**

### RECAP's Response

This is the "question of the decade," and the critical issue for the citizens faced with construction of a new injection-well facility.

Most individuals believe that their local, state, and federal governments will protect them from facilities like the one in Winona, Texas. The fact that the governments have not protected the Winona residents from the Facility is not proof that the Winona residents don't need protection - i.e., that the Facility is not injuring them. It is clear proof that the local, state, and federal governments do not always make decisions that will protect their citizens from the harm that is caused by hazardous waste facilities.

If, in fact, this facility does not pose any health or safety problems to the citizens of Winona, then why did the Smith County Appraisal District *lower* the property values - up to 20% - of residents and taxpayers located within a 2.5-mile radius of this facility? For confirmation of this reduction in property values, see the newspaper article on the subject which appeared in the July 4, 1995 issue of the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*.

As in the case of Vickery, Ohio, I ask, "Did Chemical Waste Management agree to pay out 30 million dollars just out of the kindness of their hearts?"

I think that these cases clearly indicate just what negative effect these type of facilities have on a community.

I challenge anyone to show me any positive effects that commercial deep-wells have had on communities where they are located!

### EDS' Response

According to our research, it appears that only Mrs. Glazer believes that the American Ecology Facility is causing contamination. We have not found one individual in any county, state, or federal agency who agrees with Mrs. Glazer.

Again, we refer you to:

- Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission  
Mr. Ben Knape  
(512) 239-6633
- American Ecology  
Mr. Robert Marchand, Vice President  
(903) 877-6600

American Ecology welcomes any questions about its facility, and also welcomes any requests from Romulus or Taylor residents to tour their state-of-the-art facility.

In closing, I would just like to say that it is a refreshing change to see a newspaper interested in researching issues. We have heard many statements from RECAP about the Vickery, Ohio well that were found to be untrue after they were investigated and various residents visited the Ohio facility and called the County Health Director there. Since then, Mr. R.P. Lilly and other RECAP members have concentrated their comments on the Texas facility. Now, by research based on communications with the owner and various government and other authorities, we learn that the Texas facility has not caused problems.

I'm getting tired of researching all these facilities that Mr. Lilly says are causing problems, only to learn that his statements are not factual and are misleading.

Of more concern to me is that the use of this "gadfly" approach to influence people by providing information that misleads the public is not good for the City of Romulus. □

## ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

**THE ROMULUS NEWS**  
P.O. Box 74038  
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Bride's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Bride's Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_  
Groomsmen \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Reception \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): \_\_\_\_\_

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

**THE ROMULUS NEWS**  
P.O. Box 74038  
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Baby's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Siblings \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Maternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Paternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): \_\_\_\_\_

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

## - CHURCH DIRECTORY -

**ASSEMBLY OF GOD** - 36572 Goddard / 941-4014 / Rev. James R. O'Guin, Pastor / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m. / Tuesday Evening Service - 7 p.m. / Thursday Youth Night - 7 p.m.

**BALL ROAD TABERNACLE** - 7007 Ball Rd. / 722-9638

**BELLEVILLE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - 11900 Belleville Rd. / Belleville / 697-8687 / Rev. Deborah Vanleuven Kerr, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. / Craft Circle - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. / Women's Association Meeting - 2nd Tuesday of some months - 7:30 p.m.

**BETHANY APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH** - 34584 Beverly Rd. / 729-4240 / Elder Reginald Williams, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11:15 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 7:30 p.m.

**BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH** - 30055 Ecorse Rd. / 728-1845

**BETHANY CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH** - 35737 Vinewood / 326-0810 / Robert L. Gordon, Pastor / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m.

**BEVERLY HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH** - 34156 Beverly Rd. / 729-6440 / Dr. Lovell Wooden, Sr., Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 7:30 p.m. / Thursday Prayer Service - 12 p.m. / Thursday Choir Rehearsal - 6 p.m. / Thursday Bible Study - 7:30 p.m. / Free Transportation - Call 729-6440

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** - 11338 Ozga Rd. / 941-0236 / Marvin Hawbaker, Pastor / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Adult Bible Study - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST** - 9426 S. Wayne Rd. / Office: 721-2585 / Phil Morr, Evangelist / Sunday Bible Study - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. / Wednesday Evening Worship - 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY** - 7201 Kempa St. / 729-2283

**CHURCH OF GOD-ROMULUS** - 8770 S. Wayne Rd. / 729-4884 / Parsonage: 729-7234 / Rev. Douglas M. Bishop, Pastor / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Children's Church - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m. / Family Training Service - Wednesday, 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS MIRACLE TEMPLE** - 36949 Goddard / 941-6070

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH** - 6200 Fourth St. / 729-0630 / 419-727-0631 / Rev. Hiram McBurrowst, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

**COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - 11160 Olive St. / 941-3474 / Brad Lewis, Pastor / 941-0736 / Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m.

**FAITH HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH** - Oakbrooke Villa Club House / 30251 Elm Street (1 Block South of Eureka) / Rev. Earl W. Ellison, Sr., Pastor / 941-4855 or 721-8489 / Sunday School - 10:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 a.m.

**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD** - 870 Savage Rd. / Belleville / 699-6700 / Kenneth W. Miller, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. - Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. / Wednesday Family Night - 7 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** - 11412 Delano St. / 941-0225

**FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH** - 19101 Inkster Rd. / Brownstown / 782-1220 / Sunday Morning Worship - 10 a.m. / Adult Bible Study and Sunday School - 11:30 a.m. / Nursery available / Active Drama Team

**MARTIN TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST** - 6566 S. Wayne Rd. / 326-1270 / Elder Edward Thomas, Jr., Pastor / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Worship - 12:00 p.m. / Sunday Evening Y.P.W.W. - 6:30 p.m. / Prayer and Bible Study - Tuesday, 7 p.m. / Friday Worship Service - 7 p.m.

**MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH** - 35565 Beverly Rd. / 729-2460 / James Thompson, Pastor / 531-1285 / Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 6:30 p.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 7 p.m.

**NEW FAITH CHAPEL** - 19498 Middlebelt Rd. / 783-1490 / Curt Swick, Pastor / 381-5630 / Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

**PARKS MEMORIAL A.M.E.** - 11547 Grover St. / 941-0771 / Rev. Jeffery Baker, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 6 p.m.

**PENTECOSTAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH** - 35625 Vinewood St. / 728-1390 / Rev. Arthur C. Willis, Pastor / 548-5954 / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 a.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

**ROMULUS FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH** - 9900 Tobine / 941-8810

**ROMULUS WESLEYAN CHURCH** - 37300 Goddard Rd. (5 Points) / 941-1511 / Rev. Donald McClellan, Pastor / 941-4167 / Enrichment Hour - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. / Sunday Evening Celebration - 6 p.m. / Family Night - Wednesday, 7 p.m.

**SAINT ALOYSIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH** - 11280 Ozga Rd. / 941-5056 / Daily Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday - 9 a.m. / Communion Service on Thursday at 9 a.m. / Weekend Masses: Saturday - 6 p.m., Sunday - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. / Holy Day Masses: 9 a.m., 12 Noon, & 7 p.m. / Vigil Mass (evening prior to Holy Day): 7 p.m. / Confessions: Saturday - 4:30 to 5 p.m.

**SAINT CITY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST** - 7335 Washington / 595-0629 / Pastor: Elder James Lee Whitehead / Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 7 p.m. / Sunday Evening Radio Broadcast on WMUZ-FM 103.5 at 7:30 p.m. / Tuesday Evening Bible Study & Youth Night - 7 p.m. / Choir Rehearsal - Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. / Friday Evening Family Night - 7 p.m.

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** - 19109 Craig (Post Office 274), New Boston / Robert Allmann, Pastor / Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, & Confirmation Class - 9:00 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 10 a.m. / Wednesday Worship - 7:30 p.m. / Organists: Mrs. Ruth Richert & Mr. Robert Walton / Attended Nursery

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**SECOND MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH** - 11242 Grover St. / 941-0330

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**WAYNE COURSE CHURCH OF CHRIST** - 7066 Wayncourse / 722-0454 / Earl Truss, Minister / 326-0918 / James Motley, Associate Minister: 561-3108 / Sunday Bible School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 7 p.m.

If you would like to have your church listed in the church directory (there is no charge),  
or, if you have changes or additions in church information, please send it to:

**The Romulus News Church Directory**  
Post Office Box 74038 • Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

## The Paramount Importance of Being a Father

Question: What percentage of American children live without their biological father? Sadly, almost 40% of the children do—and close to 30% of households are led by one parent. Research has shown that absent fathers put those children at higher risk for negative behaviors, including delinquency, crime, dropping out, and becoming addicted to drugs and alcohol.

On the flip side, for more than a generation, fathers who have sincerely involved themselves in their children's lives have proactively changed their previous role of being solemn, stern, emotionally distant and strict disciplinarians. This writer watched in awe while her "thirty-something" brother-in-law played with his four-year-old son one afternoon last summer. As they chased each other around the driveway, his son tripped and fell onto the gravel, cutting his palms. Old assumptions die hard, but one's inclination would be to think that Dad might say something like, "Come on now, pick yourself up and wipe off your hands . . . you're okay . . . nothing to cry about." Instead, this dad picked up his son and inspected his hands carefully, saying, "Oh boy, that hurt a lot didn't it? Where does it hurt the most?" His son was so delighted with his dad's caring words that he merely responded with "Here's the hurt, Dad," pointing to one little spot in his palm, and then quickly added, "You can put me down now," and off he ran. Dads no longer have to be punitive and distant. And thankfully, the days of "Wait 'til your father gets home," are gone.

Perhaps you've watched the news lately and noted a number of men's groups that have gained National media attention. To see a resurrection of fatherhood as a top priority for groups like Promisekeepers (a Christian group for men), The Million Man March (a fellowship for African-American men), and National Fatherhood Initiative (which advocates a return to a more traditional model of fatherhood) is quite remarkable. One of the seven promises of the Promisekeepers includes being "committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values." Whether you are in favor of Minister Farakhan or not, his movement to bring men home to their families and make them more accountable to their wives and children is another demonstration of the same. National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) emphasizes that fatherhood is "Unique and irreplaceable" and cannot be accomplished by mothers, stepfathers, or other male role models. NFI's board chairman, David Blankenhorn, says that his group strives to promote the idea that "being a loving father and a good husband is the best part of being a man."

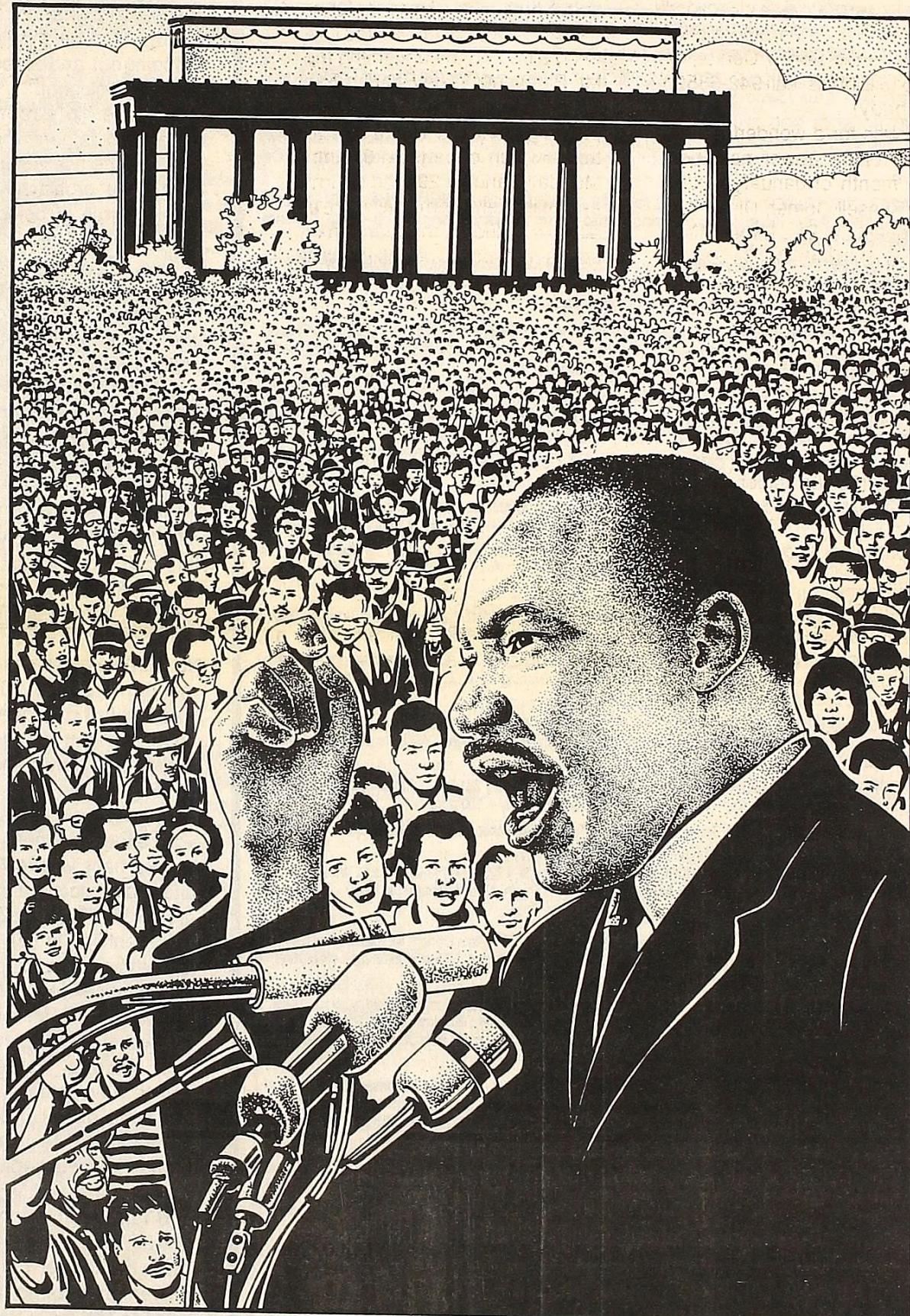
Are these lofty goals? How can men achieve them? The acronym that might best describe the resurgence of fatherhood should be C.A.R.A.: commitment, attitude, role model, action. Fathers who COMMIT themselves to their children are fathers who know that their work, play, and other relationships can get in the way, but the differences between these men and others is that they pledge that they will prioritize their children into their lives and "be there" for them, daily. ATTITUDE means that the father softens his heart towards his children by treating them in ways in which he would want to be treated—an attitude of gentle firmness. Because few of us took parenting skills courses in high school or college, our innate tendency is to "parent" exactly the way our parents parented us, or to parent exactly the opposite because we were not happy with our parents' methods. Some of our parents were harsh and mean-spirited in their discipline, not thinking about the effects that their tongue or hand might have on the child. The parent pays a price for this technique because the child becomes resentful and possibly revengeful if he is continually demeaned, discounted, and criticized. ROLE MODELING is merely showing them how to be people of good character. Children have learned accountability, altruism, consistency, conscientiousness, diligence, empathy, flexibility, faithfulness, gratitude, generosity, humility, honesty, independence, impulse control, kindness, moderation, perseverance, reverence, self-discipline, tolerance, wisdom, etc., from their role models, *not their peers*. Who better than Dad? Can dads show kids how to resolve their differences without having to use a vicious tongue or fists? Absolutely! Which brings us to our final word: ACTION. As they say, today is the first day of the rest of your life. Today is the day that dads can begin to build the foundation with their children. Dads have the opportunity to bring their children the above gifts without it even being Christmas. Dads can get involved in their children's lives by participating in their extra-curricular activities, taking a walk together, reading with them, going to their school and volunteering one hour per month, building something with them, or helping them with a school project. Dads can find teachable moments during those times to convey a message from their belief system that will help the child build character and integrity. The opportunities are available more than seven times each day . . . start today. □

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**Monday,  
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# Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Audry Moomaw, Manager of the Romulus Tower, and to the staff of the City of Romulus Senior Citizens Center for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (Note: For further information about events at the Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 942-6852.)

## Happy Birthday!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to those of my Tower neighbors born in the month of January: Arthur Cartwright, Russell Comer, Diane Klobucher, Johanna Laskey, Elmer Miller, Fern Mostoller, Mildred Qualls, Daniel Rushlow, and Evelyn Sales.

## Get SMART!

The Romulus Senior Center would like to remind everyone of the availability of the new SMART Connector bus, which provides curb-to-curb transportation service within the City any weekday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at a cost of only \$2 per person (\$1 for senior citizens and people with disabilities). Rides must be reserved in advance. For more information, or to schedule a ride, please call 941-8996.

## "New Beginning" Was a Great Finish

Over 60 people attended the Romulus Senior Center's "New Year, New Beginnings" potluck, which was held on Friday, December 29. Highlights of the event included entertainment provided by a one-man band. The gathering of old and new friends was a great way to finish off 1995 and ring in 1996.

## There'll Be a Hot Time . . .

Let a bowl of (not too) spicy chili, fun and games (including piñatas), and the warmth of fellowship carry you away from winter's doldrums to a sunny "south of the border" atmosphere! How? Just bring a dish (and bring a friend!) to this month's potluck dinner at the Senior Center. Check with the Center after Monday, January 8, for time and date.

## Food & Flick

The Romulus Senior Center has planned a "Lunch and a Movie" outing for Friday, January 26. Check with the Center after Monday, January 8, for details.

## Shopping Trips

For a transportation cost of \$1.50, Romulus seniors can ride the Center's van to shop at the Belleville Meijer on Wednesday, January 17. Space is limited; payment of transportation fee reserves your seat on a first-come, first-served basis. No refunds will be made unless there is a waiting list. Sign up at the Center.

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## Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about this or other special trips planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call 942-6852.

- **Gambling** – If games of chance make your eyes dance, you'll want to go along on the upcoming trip to Mt. Pleasant's "The Soaring Eagle" for an afternoon of bingo and full casino gambling. The \$20 cost of the trip – which departs at 8 a.m. on Monday, January 29, and returns at approximately 8 p.m. that same evening – includes round-trip motorcoach transportation; all admission charges, taxes, and tips; and dinner at "The Embers." Sign up at the Center if you are interested.

## Attention Walkers!

The Romulus Senior Center is continuing a program which allows interested senior citizens to participate in an indoor, move-at-your-own-pace walk program at Wayne County Community College's Haggerty Road campus. Transportation to the free Wednesday-morning sessions departs from the Center at 9 a.m.; returns at about 10:30 a.m.

## Weekly Programs

The Romulus Senior Center has a full schedule of weekly programs for senior citizens' enjoyment. Come in on your own or bring a friend for ceramics (Mondays at 1 and 6 p.m.); Club #1 meetings (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.); pinochle (Tuesdays at 1 p.m.); BINGO (Wednesdays at 1 p.m.); knitting, crocheting, and canvas needlepoint (Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.); euchre (Thursdays at 1 p.m.); and/or quilting (Thursdays at 7 p.m.).

## Hot Lunch

For just \$1.50, Romulus seniors (age 60 and over) can enjoy a hot lunch at the Center any weekday at 11:30 a.m. Call Pat (942-6852) at least 24 hours in advance for a reservation. Home-delivery of meals is also available for qualified individuals. For more information, call 1-800-851-1454.

## Focus: HOPE for Seniors

Single seniors (age 60 and over) with income of not more than \$797 per month, or couples with income of not more than \$1,066 per month, can apply for Focus: HOPE food boxes at the Family & Neighborhood Services-West Office (19101 Inkster Road, Romulus). Proof of income (including 1995 Social Security benefits and/or pension statements) must be provided.

For more information, please call Pam: 782-9800. □

# Obituary

## Joseph J. Stranyak

Joseph J. Stranyak of Belleville, Michigan on Wednesday, December 27, 1995. He was 23 years old.

Joseph – who was born on March 18, 1972 – was a native of Wayne, Michigan.

He is survived by his wife, Kellee (Schewe) Stranyak; one stepson, Keaton D. Cox; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold J. (Joan) Stranyak (Huron

Township, MI); and two sisters, Miss Sheila M. (Belleville, MI) and Miss April M. Stranyak (New Boston, MI).

Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 30, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Father Alexander Wytrwal (St. Stephen Catholic Church, New Boston, MI) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). □

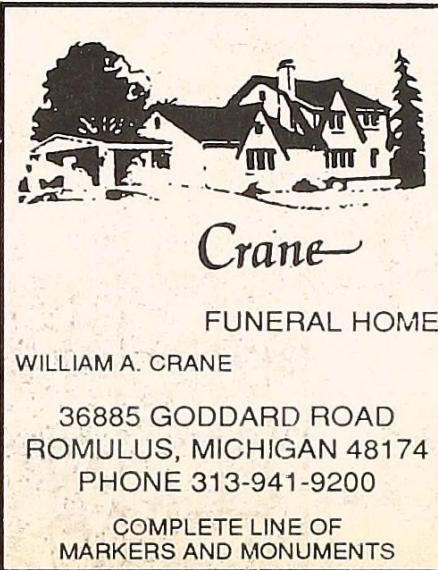
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